

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND TRANSPORTATION**

DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES



**MONTHLY REPORT
AUGUST 1999**



Printed on Recycled and Recyclable Paper

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OVERVIEW

Tonnage at a Glance

| FACILITY | Aug FY 00 | FY 00 Total | Aug FY 99 | Aug FY 98 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Materials Recycling Facility*** | 4,699 Tons | 8,880 Tons | 4,409 Tons | 5,096 Tons |
| Brunswick Landfill Facility | 12,309 Tons | 27,313 Tons | 16,818 Tons | 15,492 Tons** |
| American Ash Recycling | 3,342 Tons | 6,095 Tons | N/A | N/A |
| Resource Recovery Facility | *39,345 Tons | * 87,334 Tons | 50,653 Tons | 36,046 Tons |
| Yard Trim Compost Facility*** | 1,645 Tons | 4,035 Tons | 3,434 Tons | 2,504 Tons |

*RRF tonnage refers to tons burned (processed). Waste shipped from the Transfer Station but not burned is in the pit and is not included in the tonnage presented here. These tonnages are preliminary, with adjustments made in the December and June monthly reports.

**August FY98 tonnage went to Oaks Landfill. The out-of-county transportation and disposal contract started in late October 1997.

***Figures reported for these facilities represent incoming tons (not outgoing).

Revenue Analysis and Systems Evaluation- Trained regular DSWS phone staff for answering questions about this year's sold waste charges appearing on the County's consolidated tax bill. (Finance mailed out these bills during first week of August.) Handled calls requiring follow-up or additional information as referred by regular phone staff. Continued work on Performance Indices. Instituted new routine procedures for checking the County's contract hauler invoices including fines. Compiled hauler/collectors 6-month reports and began quality assurance reviews of same. Worked on consolidated annual tonnage review and the FY99 Recycling Calculation document.

Variable Rate- The first meeting of the Variable Rate Feasibility Study Task Force took place on August 5, 1999. The group began its review of a draft consultant report and requested certain additional information. including: (1) the actual incremental cost per incremental ton for each county solid waste program cost that varies with tonnage, and (2) pilot-versus-county average demographic data. The next Task Force meeting was scheduled for September 2, 1999.

CITIZEN COMMITTEES

Facilities Implementation Group (FIG)- In August, the County Council confirmed the appointment of 12 people to FIG, 8 voting and 4 non-voting members. The group will meet in September while interviews for the 4 remaining seats on the Group continue.

Solid Waste Facilities Master Plan- SCS completed drafts of the Analysis of Facility Traffic and Transportation Demand Management Program in February, and they will be distributed for comment to FIG members when that board is formed. The groundwater monitoring base maps are complete, and monitoring of groundwater and well water continues. An outline of the traffic safety training for facility contractors will be distributed to FIG.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee- SWAC met on August 3rd at the Executive Office Building. The committee was briefed on out-of-County ash haul and County landfills, residential mixed paper, and the closure of the Sludge Composting Facility.

Variable Rate- See "Revenue Analysis and Systems Evaluation", above. This study is now being managed by that unit in the Division.

COLLECTIONS

Refuse- August's refuse collections were normal with no disruptions to the scheduled work.

Recycling- The Recycling Van participated in two multi-family events and then spent 10 days at the Montgomery County Fair. Letters went out to the 20,000 homes in the Olney area that will start mixed paper recycling on September 20, 1999.

Contractor Performance- During the month of August, 1999 there was only one complaint not resolved by the contractor. The number of complaints received in August, 1999, totaled 510. This represents a 29.3% reduction from August, 1998, which had a total of 721 complaints.

Customer Service- In the month of August, there were 7,423 calls received with 240 follow up calls made for quality control. ACS workers continued to stuff door hangers for the mixed paper recycling.

Volunteer Activities- During the month of August, MASTER RECYCLER/COMPOSTER Program Volunteers contributed 368 hours of service and

reached approximately 6,389 residents. The volunteers handled 256 calls to the recycling hotline and an additional 153 calls to the answering machine. Volunteer activities included two Household Hazardous Waste Collections (Shady Grove and NIH,) and participation at The Montgomery County Fair.

WASTE MINIMIZATION

Drop-off Programs- The loading dock has agreed to staff an event to collect reusable building materials Saturday, September 11, 1999 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the “Don’t Dump. Donate” drop-off at the Transfer Station. The event will be promoted through paid local advertisement.

Department of Environmental Protection's Home Composting and Source Reduction Activities- Staff participated in television and radio interviews regarding current drought conditions, including County Comments, a 15 minute program on Cable 55 which addressed grasscycling and proper lawn care and mulching. In addition, as part of the County’s water conservation initiatives, two display advertisements which incorporated proper lawn care, mulching, and the Mulch Preserves program were developed and run.

Staff joined Business Recycling Coordinator to meet with FASEB (a privately funded scientific research organization) and examine potential landscaping alterations on the 11-acre site, which would help reduce yard trim generation. Provided guidance for mulching and using county mulch and will continue to assist with additional information.

A meeting was held with the MR/C program manager and Science Coordinators for MCPS to discuss an expanded role for VermiLab in Middle School science education, specifically integrating the composting component into Grade 6 Science Units: Living in the Natural World, or adapting the program for use with Department of Academic Programs’ Student Service Learning activities. Plans call for drafting materials and outlines for testing during the 1999-2000 school year, with complete program rollout in the year 2000.

Began work-developing illustrations for home composting ads, posters, and brochure.

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAMS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection- Two HHW events were scheduled in August; one at the Transfer Station which had 578 patrons, and the other at National Institute of Health (NIH) which had 376 patrons.

There were also 74 walk-ins, citizens who came to the Transfer Station between August 2nd and August 31st.

Small Quantity Generator (Ecowise) Program- One Ecowise event was held. Seven companies attended.

AIR PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Resource Recovery Facility- In August, the Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEM) indicated that all three units were operating until 7 PM August 1, when Unit #1 was brought offline. Units 2 and 3 continued to operate at nearly 100% load until August 12, when Unit #1 was brought online at 8 AM to handle additional waste. All 3 units were operating at nearly 100% load until 10 PM on August 13, when Unit #1 was brought offline. Thereafter, Units 2 and 3 continued to operate at nearly 100% load till the end of August. There were no equipment malfunctions in August that affected plant operations or stack emissions.

Oaks Landfill Energy Recovery Facility- In August, Bentech continued evaporating the treated leachate in the thermal evaporator at the site. The facility operated intermittently because of continued problems with the compressor unit. The contractor stated that when the doors of the maintenance building are open, dust from truck traffic is getting in to the compressor unit and causing it to stop. Leachate was evaporated at the rate of four (4) to five (5) gallons per minute. A total of 95,000 gallons of leachate was evaporated in August.

The steel shroud in the interior of the thermal unit is found to be sagging due to high temperature. The contractor is planning to bring the unit offline during the third week of September to replace the steel shroud with refractory material. This material can withstand temperatures up to 2000 F. In addition; the heater coil in the transfer pump at the lagoon needs to be replaced. These repairs are expected to be performed by the middle of September.

Yard Trim Composting Facility- The Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) transmitted to DSWS, a draft Consent Agreement that incorporated a one-year evaluation of the operational improvements at the Yard Trim Composting Facility (YTCF) as required by item #4 of the Consent Agreement. The evaluation period is designated from September 1999 to August 2000. DSWS reviewed the document and transmitted its comments to MDE. The document is expected to be finalized in September. DSWS has already started the one-year evaluation program. By the end of August, three wet

sampling events have been conducted. The sampling program will conclude in May 2000, at which time, DSWs will meet with MDE to discuss further course of action.

Contractual Work- ENSR is continuing work on the air and non-air media tasks and epidemiological evaluation. A legal agreement required by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) was sent to the Agency for obtaining data for the Dickerson area residents for the epidemiological evaluation. A response from the Agency is still to come. In August, the new contractor, RAS Enterprises conducted semiannual audit for the two meteorological towers.

RECYCLING

Public Outreach- Work continues on a comprehensive outreach item, in the form of a Year 2000 calendar. This calendar will provide broad-based information on recycling, waste reduction, buying recycled products, as well as specific collection schedule changes, to the single-family households, multi-family property managers, and the coordinators of business recycling programs throughout the County. Work has commenced on a recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled newsletter, to be distributed to community and business leaders. Work has also begun on a comprehensive outreach campaign on recycling. Evaluation of the mixed paper recycling efforts in Area 2, and ways to increase participation has begun.

The SORRT awareness campaign is ready for the September 6 kick-off. A 30-second tv advertisement, two 60-second radio spots, transit advertisements and print advertisements are completed, and ready for placement and use.

Commercial Recycling and Waste Reduction- Site visits and on-site consultations continued to be provided during the month of August.

In an effort to clarify and verify recycling data, an aggressive information gathering campaign was launched. Hundreds of contacts were made to recycling processors, recycling haulers, and small and large businesses. The campaign has proven to be successful. Staff has documented recycling activities that were both unreported and under-reported via existing reporting documents. The information gathering survey has also assisted staff in identifying some recurring recycling problems facing many of the small business owners. Staff plans to continue the survey through September.

Staff is continuing to seek out additional information and materials for use by businesses and other organizations. Information is being reviewed to provide a satellite site for an interactive, EPA sponsored "Buying Recycled" seminar. Staff intends to provide a downlink site, and invite businesses and organizations to attend. This seminar is scheduled for November 9, 1999. Staff is also trying to coordinate plans to hold our annual business recycling and waste reduction seminar in conjunction with this event.

Staff continues to develop additional information and materials for use by businesses and organizations in their recycling programs. Work continues with all County agencies.

Multi-Family Recycling- This has been a very busy month for multi-family recycling. The new video is in the process of being mailed along with the new Property Managers Guide to all multi-family properties. Staff has started a bin study, to test the effectiveness of bin distribution to multi-family residents. Staff has begun distribution of the new posters, which are laminated to protect them from the effects from outdoor use. This represents an improved service to customers and also a cost-saving measure to the County in the long run. Hopefully fewer additional posters will need to be produced in the future. Staff is also planning several community events with the Recycle Mobile. The Recycle Mobile has proven to be a very valuable tool in presenting recycling to our citizens.

Mixed Paper Recycling- The mixed paper collection program in service area #8 (20,000 households in Olney) set to start in September.

FACILITY ACTIVITIES

Yard Trim Compost Facility- Phase I of the pilot for tubgrinding of screening fines continued. The pilot allows for grinding of material except for the storm debris sent to the facility. Additional approval by Sugarloaf is necessary to grind that material. Grass arrived at the facility in lower than normal amounts for this time of year due to the drought. Quick processing of material was top priority of the MES on-site staff in order to minimize odors.

Due to the low moisture and high temperatures there were two small fires at the facility.

- August 13th incident – Located in composting windrow. MES discovered a smoldering in pile on Pad A. MES contained the fire and completely extinguished it by 3:00PM. Fire & Rescue was not called.
- August 14th incident – Located in composting windrow. PEPCO notified Ogden Martin of small fire at 3:30 PM and called Fire & Rescue. Ogden isolated the smoldering section by 3:45 PM. It was completely extinguished by 4:15 PM, and MES remained on-site to monitor.

In August, 1,645 tons of grass was received for processing and 882 cubic yards of Leafgro were sold.

MDE has agreed to an extension of the consent agreement requiring a solution to high BOD levels found in storm water pond discharge sampling. See the Air Permits and Environmental Programs section for more information on this matter.

Resource Recovery Facility- The Facility operated with two units the entire month, usually at 100% load to control refuse pit levels. 39,345 tons of waste were processed at the Facility and 46,245 tons were delivered.

On August 1, unit #1 was removed from service as planned after an extended operating period. On August 12 unit #1 was restarted in response to a Maximum Generation notice from PEPCO and was operated for 30 hours, then taken off line on the 13th.

There were no Code Red days forecast in August.

The Facility sold 22,809 MWH during the month, for approximately \$735,000 in revenues.

CSX rail service continued to improve during the month. A meeting was held with a CSX business manager in an effort to improve their understanding of our needs. Additional meetings are planned with CSX management to develop long-term resolutions to operating issues.

1689 tons of yard waste were delivered to the compost site by the rail system.

There were no reportable air or water quality excursions during the month.

More than 40 people toured the Facility including visitors from India; China; Ukraine; U.S. EPA; U.S. Department of Commerce; Catholic University; Maryland Department of Natural Resources; and interested local citizens.

Materials Recovery Facility- Approximately 2,689 tons of old newspaper; 1,327 tons of commingled material; and 369 tons of mixed paper (from the new pilot program) were received and processed at the Materials Recovery Facility in August 1999.

Electrical modifications continued through the month.

Construction began to increase paper storage at the MRF.

Oaks Landfill- The contractor for the Phase II closure construction, Barbella Environmental Technology, Inc., is placing final soil cover over a large portion of the approximately 30 acres of recently installed geomembrane and geotextile. Approximately 14 acres have been completed and seeded. Barbella is approximately 50% complete with the Phase II work.

Shipments of crushed glass from the MRF to the Oaks Landfill will continue through September. Crushed glass is being used as a high permeability material in the installation of the Phase I gas collection system.

Cherry Hill Construction, the contractor for the Phase I closure construction (about 68 acres on the western side of the landfill) completed installing geomembrane and

geocomposite in the first two subareas of Phase I and has begun placing the soil layer over the geocomposite.

Construction of residential hook-ups to the new public waterline around the Oaks Landfill is almost complete. The few remaining connections should be finished in August.

Transfer Station- During August, Ogden Martin shipped via rail 41,001 tons of processible waste from the Transfer Station to the Resource Recovery Facility, 3,545 more tons than shipped in August, 1998.

Litter was collected along Shady Grove Road from Route 355 to the intersection with Muncaster Mill Road.

Whalen and Purdy began construction of the Nonprocessable Waste facility along with some of the Master Plan improvements.

Design work for additional Master Plan improvements is ongoing. This work is near completion.

New Landfill Site 2- The Site 2 Landfill project has been suspended since the successful start-up of the out-of-county waste transportation and disposal contract in October, 1997. A formal suspension agreement among the County, parties requesting a contested case hearing for the refuse disposal permit, and the Maryland Department of the Environment has been executed by County and citizen representatives.

Site 2 Property Management- DFS is following maintenance schedules for the properties. DFS continues to work on updating the leases for the properties. The Historic Medley District (HMD) rejected the negotiated lease to renovate and use the Chiswell Farm property. Plans are underway to obtain approval to use the CIP funds for DFS to stabilize the farmhouse through one of their contractors.

Out-of-County Haul- During the month of August, about 8,411 tons of ash residue and 3,898 tons of nonprocessable waste were transported to the County's dedicated disposal cell at the Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc. Landfill in Brunswick County, Virginia. 456 tons of dirt and rock were recycled at Clean Rock in Hagerstown, MD.

Ash Recycling – Shipments of ash for recycling continue to be sent to American Ash Recycling in York, PA.

Linden Farm Renovations- The project is substantially complete but some items remain to be completed.

Phase I of the plantings to screen the Compost Facility from the Linden Farm is complete. The County and Sugarloaf will work with a landscape design firm to complete design of Phase II this fall.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Important Telephone Numbers

General information on solid waste- 240/777-6400

Customer Service- 240/777-6410

Recycling hotline- 301/590-0046 (Hours of operation: Mon. - Fri., 1:00 - 4:00 PM)

Transfer Station- 301/840-2370

Materials Recovery Facility- 301/417-1447- Maryland Environmental Service

Resource Recovery Facility- 301/349-5685 County Office
301/916-3031 Ogden Martin Systems of Montgomery

Yard Trim Compost Facility- 301/428-8185

Internet for DSWs- www.dpwt.com, then click on Solid Waste Services

Note: All comments, questions, and suggestions on the contents of this report should be addressed to:

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SOLID WASTE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL

| TOPIC OR FACILITY | |
|---|---|
| Current Recycling Rate in Montgomery County | 35% |
| Recycling Goal by 2000 | 50% |
| New Recycling Programs Scheduled for FY 00 | Implementation of Residential Mixed Paper Collection March 1999- Textile Recycling Pilot begins |
| Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) | Guaranteed Capacity = 85% of 1800 on an annual basis (558,450 tons/yr). |
| Yard Trim Composting Facility (DCF) | Operations Limited to Receipt of 77,000 tons/year under Sugarloaf Settlement Agreement. FY 98 tons received- 59,144 |
| # Residences receiving trash collection by County contractors | 82,450 |
| # Residences receiving collection of recyclables in blue bins and yard waste collection | 193,904 |
| Term of out-of-county waste transportation and disposal contract with Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc. | June 19, 1997 through June 30, 2012 with an option for a five-year renewal. (Service started on October 20, 1997.) |